

Freedom, more than 80,000 National Guard and Reserve troops have been activated and are playing a critical role.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of employers, local and state government officials, Active and Reserve component leaders, and military members from across the nation and around the world request ESGR's employer support expertise on a daily basis. When Guardsmen and Reservists return home following mobilization, ESGR committee members are there to provide information and support services to those in need.

The U.S. Congress passed the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, (USERRA) of 1994, and updated it in 1996. This law completely revised the Veterans Reemployment Rights Act of 1940. USERRA articulates the rights and responsibilities of Guard and Reserve members with regard to job protection and explains employer rights under federal law. ESGR helps employers and Reservists understand this law and helps them informally resolve any employment conflicts that may arise.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to congratulate ESGR and its 54 ESGR committees on their 30 years of service and commend this network of over 4,200 volunteer patriots for their time and talent. They are serving their country and maintaining the much needed support of our employers and communities for the Guard and Reserve. Through the efforts of agencies like ESGR, we can call on our Reserve forces to answer our nation's call without the fear of job loss.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS
GONE

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Paul Ecke, Jr.

For more than 50 years, Paul Ecke, Jr., has sent poinsettias and other exotic and beautiful flowers throughout the world. His company, Paul Ecke Ranch, has been the world leader in the development and distribution of poinsettias of every color and description.

Paul has given generously of his time and talent to his country, the State of California, and the people of San Diego County. On a more personal note, Paul has been a friend and mentor to me before and after I became a member of Congress. Often, when he disagrees with me and offers constructive criticism, I appreciate him most.

This Monday, the people of San Diego County will honor Paul Ecke, Jr., for his lifetime achievements and his contributions to the community. I know that Congress will join the people of San Diego in celebrating this great man and his ongoing achievements.

IN HONOR OF JANE CAMPBELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane L. Campbell, Mayor of the City

of Cleveland, who is being honored at the Cuyahoga County Democratic Annual Dinner on April 14th, 2002.

Mayor Campbell began her service to community on the grassroots, neighborhood level, first as the founding Executive Director of WomenSpace, and later as the Executive Director of the Friends of Shaker Square.

During her six term, twelve-year tenure as State Representative, Mayor Campbell was elected Majority Whip and Minority Assistant Leader by her colleagues, and was elected President of the National Conference of State Legislators. This Conference represented all legislators from across the nation. Mayor Campbell focused her efforts on protecting the rights and well-being of children, families and seniors. She also provided critical support and guidance for the passage of the Adult Care Licensing Bill, legislation that ensures that our most vulnerable citizenry—our elderly, blind, and disabled citizens, are protected, and will receive quality services.

Additionally, Mayor Campbell was instrumental in the passage of legislation focused on the protection of children, including the requirement of genetic testing to establish paternity, and the expansion of health care coverage for children. Also, Mayor Campbell worked to publicize serious flaws within the child support process, which led to stricter enforcement of child support laws.

As one of three Cuyahoga County Commissioners, Mayor Campbell represented 1.5 million constituents in the Greater Cleveland area. Also during this time, she served as the Chair of Welfare Reform with the National Association of Counties, and represented the County as a member of the Executive Committee of the Large Urban County Caucus. Additionally, Mayor Campbell was elected to the Vice Chair of the National Democratic County Officials, and she was also elected as the Vice President of Communications for the National Conference of Democratic Mayors. Moreover, Mayor Campbell, as Commissioner, underscored her continued commitment to issues facing women, children and families, by chairing the Violence Against Women Act Committee, and the Children Who Witness Violence Committee.

Mayor Campbell's extensive public service accomplishments, leadership, and social advocacy on all levels, from grassroots neighborhood organizations that exist to serve women, children, families and seniors in need, to the esteemed position of Mayor of the City of Cleveland, lend promise to the vision of a hopeful tomorrow for all citizens of the City of Cleveland, and for the Greater Cleveland community as well.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me in paying tribute to Mayor Jane L. Campbell, for her diligent effort, outstanding leadership, and significant achievements within the public service arena, and also for her record of dedication to individuals and to community.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNUAL
PRIDE YOUTH WORLD ANTI-
DRUG CONFERENCE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the over 4,500 youth and adult par-

ticipants of the 2002 PRIDE (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education) World Drug Prevention Conference currently being held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The PRIDE conference is the world's largest youth conference focusing on drug and violence prevention and one of the few that provides a forum where youth and adults meet to find solutions.

PRIDE was started in 1977 with the primary goal of educating, promoting and supporting drug free youth who care for the safety and health of self, peers, family and community. Today, as PRIDE celebrates its 25th anniversary as an organization dedicated to youth, it enjoys one of its most successful conferences to date. This year's participants represent 40 countries, many ethnic groups, as well as urban, suburban and rural communities. I am pleased to serve as PRIDE statewide co-chair along with Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio, and Luceille Fleming, Director of the Ohio Department of Drug and Alcohol Prevention. The Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, an organization I and other community leaders founded in 1996, has acted as a local partner.

The 2002 conference has drawn an impressive host of nationally recognized speakers including John Walters, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio; Ruth Sanchez-Way, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention; Charles Currie, Director of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; Major General Arthur Dean, Chairman/CEO Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

The conference offers numerous workshops that help youth learn how to be leaders in their schools and communities, and teaches techniques that can be used to encourage peers to maintain a healthy and substance-free lifestyle. Importantly, the conference also demonstrates that, although there is still a great deal of work to do in the struggle to keep our youth off drugs and away from alcohol and tobacco, the majority of our teens are making responsible decisions regarding substance abuse and deserve to be commended for their efforts.

Teen alcohol and drug abuse has a devastating effect on families and communities nationwide. Youth PRIDE participants, as well as the parents, coaches and other mentors who help guide them, deserve accolades for their willingness to act as leaders with regard to this often difficult decision to stand up and be recognized as a model for healthy, substance free living.

The 25th annual PRIDE conference has also provided a unique partnership between the Cincinnati Police Department, the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office, and Cincinnati CAN that has raised over \$40,000 to provide scholarships for 200 Cincinnati youth to attend the conference. This has been a remarkable opportunity for the youth who, without this generous assistance, would have been unable to attend the conference. We congratulate these organizations for their community partnerships that help to reduce demand for drugs and alcohol.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati are pleased to welcome such an important conference to our area and thank all of the youths and adults who have worked to make the 2002 PRIDE conference a success.